

REMARKS

The present Amendment amends claims 1, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 16-20 and 22, cancels claims 15 and 24, leaves claims 3, 6, 9, 14, 21 and 23 unchanged and adds new claims 25-31. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 1, 3 and 6-11 and 13, 14, 16-23, and 25-31.

Claims 1, 3, 6-11 and 13-24 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Allard (U.S. Patent No. 5,432,946). This rejection is traversed for the following reasons. Applicants submit that the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in claims 1, 3 and 6-11 and 13-24 are not taught or suggested by Allard whether taken individually or in combination with any of the other references of record. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Amendments were made to the claims to more clearly describe features of the present invention as recited in the claims. Particularly, amendments were made to the claims to recite that the present invention is directed to A network connectable equipment including a processing unit, a single power supply module, a communication module for connecting with a network, a power supply line for connecting said power supply module to said processing unit, and a power control line for connecting said communication module and said power supply module.

According to the present invention the single power supply module stops supplying electric power to the network connectable equipment other than said communication module if the network connectable equipment is in a power-off state and if said communication module receives frame data via

said network, then said communication module determines whether the frame data is addressed to the network connectable equipment or not, and issues a power-on request to the single power supply module if the frame data is determined to be addressed to the network connectable equipment and the network connectable equipment is in the power-off state.

Further, according to the present invention the single power supply module receives said power-on request via said power control line, supplies power to said processing unit via said power supply line based on said power-on request to cause the network connectable equipment to be in a power-on state, and not supplies power to said processing unit via said power supply line after said processing unit computer processing related to the frame data to cause the network connectable equipment to be in the power-off state.

Thus, as per the present invention the power supply module (the battery 7 and the power supply controller 9 in Fig. 22) and the communication module (the network controller 18 in Fig. 22) of the present invention corresponds to the power supply 90 and the option card 110 of the cited reference prior art respectively.

Allard discloses the battery 111 equipped into the option card 110 in addition to the power supply 90 of the computer 10. The battery 111 supplies electric power for operating the input buffer 114 and the address decoder 115 during intervals when the associated computer 10 is dormant. That is, Allard discloses two power supplies one of which is the power supply 90 for the computer 10 and the other one is the rechargeable battery 111 equipped into the network option card 110, but neither disclose the activation of the computer 10 by the power supply 90 only after receiving frame data via the

network without the aid of the rechargeable battery 111 nor returning the computer 10 to the inactive state by the power supply 90 only after the computer 10 completes a necessary operation.

Although Allard states that "In the event that the power supply of the computer 10 is provided with a portion which maintains the availability of a suitable logic level voltage even while the computer is 'off', then the battery 111 may be dispensed with and the NVRAM replaced by any suitable RAM devices powered from the power supply". Allard is silent about the matter of eliminating the battery 111.

The novel feature of the present invention is that a single power supply module is provided and the power supply module is configured to stop supplying electric power to the unit/module of the network connectable equipment other than the communication module when the network connectable equipment is in the power-off state which is not disclosed by the prior art Allard.

In accordance with the present invention, the power supply module can stop supplying electric power to the unit/module of the network connectable equipment, but continue to supply electric power to the communication module for enabling the communication module to maintain a connection state with other sites via the network without any other batteries when the network connectable equipment is in the power-off state, the unit/module of the network connectable equipment can be activated by the "single" power supply module from the power-off state, and such configuration can reduce the size of the circuit. Such features of the present invention as now recited in the claims are not taught or suggested by Allard.

Thus, Allard fails to teach or suggest that the single power supply module stops supplying electric power to the network connectable equipment other than said communication module if the network connectable equipment is in a power-off state and that if said communication module receives frame data via said network, then said communication module determines whether the frame data is addressed to the network connectable equipment or not, and issues a power-on request to the single power supply module if the frame data is determined to be addressed to the network connectable equipment and the network connectable equipment is in the power-off state as recited in the claims.

Further, Allard fails to teach or suggest that the single power supply module receives said power-on request via said power control line, supplies power to said processing unit via said power supply line based on said power-on request to cause the network connectable equipment to be in a power-on state, and not supplies power to said processing unit via said power supply line after said processing unit computer processing related to the frame data to cause the network connectable equipment to be in the power-off state as recited in the claims.

Therefore, Allard fails to teach or suggest the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims and as such Allard does not anticipate or render obvious the features of the present invention as recited in the claims. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC §102(e) rejection of claims 1, 3, 6-11 and 13-24 as being anticipated by Allard is respectfully requested.

The remaining references of record have been studied. Applicants submit that they do not supply any of the deficiencies noted above with respect to the reference utilized in the rejection of claims 1, 3, 6-11 and 13-24.

As indicated above, the present Amendment adds new claims 25-31. New claims 25-31, since they are dependent claims, recite many of the same features shown above not to be taught or suggested by any of the references of record. In addition, new claims 25-31 recite additional features of the present invention that are also not taught or suggested by any of the references of record. Therefore, new claims 25-31 are allowable over the prior art of record for the same reasons as claims 1, 3, 6-11 and 13-24.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants submit that claims 1-3 and 6-11 and 13-31 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 1-3 and 6-11 and 13-31 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (500.31833CC5).

Respectfully submitted,
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